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Oil firm's owner gets 5 years for defrauding Weyerhaeuser

TACOMA (AP) — The millionaire owner of a Woodland oil-recycling company has been sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$10,000 in a scheme to cheat the Weyerhaeuser Co. on deliveries of fuel oil.

George Wellington Drexler, 64, of Tacoma, president of Arrcom Inc., admitted bribery in the case. But he told U.S. District Judge Jack Tanner that officials of the timber giant had ruined his firm by refusing to pay \$200,000 for oil deliveries to Weyerhaeuser's Longview steam plant.

Government lawyers say Arrcom and associated companies defrauded Weyerhaeuser of \$296,000 by charging for oil that never was delivered and for deliveries of oil of a lower quality than the billing specified from 1978 to 1981.

Drexler and his two sons were among five men who were sentenced Friday on various charges in the case. Five more face sentencing next Friday.

23 counts

Charges against five others who also were indicted by a federal grand jury last September have been handled by dismissal or deferment of prosecution.

The indictments charged in 33 counts that Arrcom, Terry Drexler Inc. and Golden Penn Oil Co. of Seattle and employees of those firms and Weyerhaeuser participated in fraud that included installing defective meters, falsifying oil-quality checks, pumping air through doctored delivery gauges and recirculating already purchased oil through an elaborate pumping system.

Drexler pleaded guilty in December to paying Weyerhaeuser delivery supervisor John V. Arnold \$500 a week to doctor delivery invoices. Arnold was placed on probation after he cooperated with the federal investigation.

"I was shut off a lot of times until he got his money," Drexler said.

Tanner noted that Drexler had

worked his way through night school and at one time had a listed worth of "\$6,404,596."

Drexler said, "When I had my silver mine, yes."

Terry Joseph Drexler, 36, president of Terry Drexler Inc., and its subsidiary, Golden Penn, was sentenced to four years in prison and fined \$10,000 for bribery.

David George Drexler, 30, manager of Arrcom's Woodland plant, was

given a suspended sentence, placed on three years' probation and fined \$500 for conspiring to deliver subquality truckloads of oil, a misdemeanor charge.

Both are to report to the U.S. Marshal's Service to begin their prison terms June 2 under a plea bargain in exchange for the dismissal of other charges against them. No explanation was given Friday for their request for the delay.

Sent immediately to prison was Robert Maurice Leslie Rogers, 58, of Duvall, an Arrcom mechanic who pleaded guilty to installing a doctored fuel meter.

Rogers was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$1,000.

Robert Norman Johns, 41, of Vancouver, Wash. was given a suspended three-year sentence, placed on three years probation and fined \$1,000. He had pleaded guilty to fraud.

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